

5-26-99

Dr. Jane E. Henney
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney,

I'm writing you because I recently read about the petition to ban the use of medically useful antibiotics as livestock growth promoters, that the FDA is considering. The World Health Organization called for a ban on using antibiotics to fatten livestock in 1997. Since then, the American Public Health Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other public health organizations have taken similar positions. The European Union heeded these concerns last year when it banned adding human-use antibiotics to animal feed.

Using antibiotics as a feed additive to fatten livestock more quickly is making disease-causing bacteria more resistant to the drugs humans rely upon to treat tuberculosis, pneumonia, staph infections, and other life-threatening infectious diseases. I'm writing you, not because I have something to gain or lose from this potential action, but because I am concerned. I am concerned about the health of the antibiotic laden meat Americans consume, and the resulting health concerns regarding the lost effectiveness of commonly used antibiotics. Please, protect the

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health of us, and our children
by banning the use of antibiotics
as livestock growth promoters.
It's just more healthy!

Sincerely,


ARON ROSS

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
FDA

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RECEIVED

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